

- **SureCAL Compatibility**
- **Moving Forward with SureCAL**
- **2011 MSC**

The SureCAL[®] Circle

The Newsletter of
Calibration Technologies
March 2011

Windows 7, Vista, & XP64

Yes SureCAL is Compatible

Yes, yes, & yes. The latest 5.1 quarterly update is a compatibility update. Faster hardware, faster operating systems, dual & quad processors, it's just a fact of life that technology is leaping forward. Like most labs, Northrop Grumman regularly replaces PC's at the end of the lease. Thank you to all who called our 800 line when a new computer caused issues. Helping you helps us share testing of the latest software fixes. It's very important to stay current, and load the latest quarterly update CD. SureCAL 5.1 system files have changed. You should have 2011 file dates in your HTBwin83 directory. (files STARTUP & SURECFG). Because these are local system file updates, be sure to install the quarterly update CD on every station, even if your CP library is networked. Here are additional tips:

- Flickering menus?

Configuration - Advanced Systems Setting – new is Delay after Alpha Pen. Set in a range of .001 to .005 exit and save changes. As you increase this setting, menu choices will track the mouse movement with increased refresh time, so don't go any higher than you have to. You can custom tune to your system's best performance. Highest required delay so far has been .005

- Zoom problems or hookup changes in mid test not displaying?

The latest quarterly updates dated December 2010 should fix all these issues. Call us if it doesn't. The Advance System Setting applicable is the delay for general variables. The .05 default setting seems to work for everyone. If your Advanced System Settings get way out of whack, you can easily start over. All settings can be returned to default values by setting all to 0, exit and save. When you reopen this menu, you will see the values SureCAL defaults to on a new install.

SureCAL 5.0 Trade-in Time

Why did I trade my 68 Camero convertible for a Toyota? As I remember it, after the oil embargo, I couldn't afford to drive it anymore. Times they are a changin'. And as much as we'd like to sit around and listen to Gary explain why the Ravens blew it in the playoffs this year; we can't afford to keep SureCAL an XP only and GPIB only application. Like the Ravens, we're moving forward. The new quarterly update will be a painless upgrade and update to bring everyone up to the latest 5.1 (and ready for 5.2 due out in April). We know how everyone resists change, and that's why we make it an easier transition into the new way of doing things. We've been accommodating 5.0 users with two quarterly update CD's supporting two versions of SureCAL. With 5.2 coming, three versions of SureCAL is one too many. Fear not, the new 5.1 quarterly update will work on 5.0 or 5.1, and will test your system's configuration for 5.1's required NI-VISA software and Microsoft C++ redistributable software. If you need them, a pdf document will be displayed on startup with handy links to get them and instructions to install them. There is no cost to download this software, if you have a valid SMS, other than clicking "agree" to their software license. Any questions? Call us at 1-800-913-3773.

5.2 Due Out This April

And new to the update process, you can have it both ways, 5.2 and 5.1 on the same stations. It installs in seconds. And it leaves your 5.1 installation untouched. We have a cal lab and we know you can't shut down a station to contend with new software that a tech is not used to. So we've made it easy and failsafe. You can install and run 5.2 and you can still run 5.1 on the same PC if you want to... or have to.

Moving Forward with SureCAL...

Test Manager V5.1 was a temporary solution so drivers could be used to communicate with non-GPIB standards. We have since created a new Test Manager V5.2 running in Microsoft's Visual Basic 2008. In V5.2, it will be shipped with an HTBasic shell that will run legacy procedures when they are launched. Like V5.1, this new release will support non-GPIB interfaces, such as USB, LAN and VXI and Visual Basic Device Drivers. Although the screens have changed, the functionality of Test Manager remains the same. We are putting together the framework for V5.3 and it will incorporate the use of XML for all data input/output, allowing greater flexibility for data access and storage. In 2012/2013, we will roll out SureCAL 6.0 with a user-editable dynamic uncertainty budget. And the best part, if you have a valid Software Maintenance Service with SureCAL, you will be receiving these updates at no additional cost.

MSC 2011

The 2011 Measurement Science Conference annual event will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center - Hall A from March 16-18.

The Exhibits hours are as follows:

Wed 3/16: 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
Thu 3/17: 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Fri 3/18: 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Stop by our booth for a demo on the new V5.2 SureCAL operating system. Our booth will be located at 87, 88, & 89. Hope to see you there at this year's event.

<http://www.surecal.com/>